NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

# INFORMATION LETTER

PUBLICATION OR REPRODUCTION NOT PERMITTED

No. 462 Washington, D. C. July 30, 1932

## PEA PACK FIGURES REQUESTED

The annual survey of the pea pack will be started within a few days by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce when schedules will be mailed to all pea canners.

The Bureau's job of collecting and compiling the statistics will be greatly simplified if there is proper cooperation on the part of the industry and a prompt return of the schedules. This will make it unnecessary to get out a second request and will enable the Bureau to issue the figures at a very early date.

This year particularly the industry has need of statistics of this kind and *pea canners are earnestly requested to return the schedules at the earliest possible date.*

## ASSOCIATION POLICY IN FOOD LAW CASES

In order to avoid any confusion between the Association's service in the investigation of consumer complaints and that rendered in connection with cases arising under Federal, State or local food laws and regulations, it seems advisable to publish some definite statement in regard to the latter.

In case of seizure or other trouble with food authorities involving canned products of our members, the Association will gladly make such investigation as appears necessary, examine samples of the product involved and advise the canner, if requested to do so.

However, the Association does not bear the expense of contesting seizures or defending the canner in case of prosecution by food officials, nor pay the fee of lawyers who may have to be employed for that purpose. The Association will not undertake to defend any canner in such cases, if investigation indicates to the Association that the seizure or prosecution is justified. If there appears to be an error or injustice in the official action taken, appropriate representation will be made to the officials concerned, and advice will be given to the canner to assist in the defense of such cases if necessary.

## CANNED FOODS STOCK REPORT FOR JULY 1ST

The following figures collected at the request of the interested trades by the Foodstuffs Division of the Bureau of Foreign

and Domestic Commerce compare stocks of seven canned food items in the hands of canners and distributors on July 1, 1932, April 1, 1932 and July 1, 1931.

*Comparison of Stocks in 144 Distributors' Hands July 1, 1932, April 1, 1932, and July 1, 1931, based on Reports from the Same Firms for Each Date.*

| Commodity | Stocks July 1, 1932 | Stocks April 1, 1932 | Stocks July 1, 1931 | Decrease April 1, to July 1, 1932 | Decrease July 1, 1932, compared with July 1, 1931 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Cases* | *Cases* | *Cases* | *Pct.* | *Pct.* |
| Peas | 742,937 | 873,649 | 1,025,153 | 15.0 | 27.5 |
| Corn | 934,239 | 1,029,798 | 913,079 | 9.3 | a2.2 |
| Tomatoes | 800,126 | 1,101,006 | 1,243,416 | 27.4 | 35.2 |
| Green & wax beans | 444,127 | 472,882 | 518,491 | 6.2 | 14.3 |
| Peaches | 395,717 | 494,583 | 443,338 | 20.0 | 10.6 |
| Pears | 123,867 | 144,702 | 171,130 | 14.5 | 27.5 |
| Pineapple | 549,983 | 502,599 | 438,324 | a9.5 | a25.5 |
| Total of 7 items | 3,990,996 | 4,619,279 | 4,743,931 | 13.6 | 15.9 |

a Increase.

*Comparison of Stocks in Canners' Hands July 1, 1932, April 1, 1932, and July 1, 1931, based on Reports from the Same Firms for Each Date.*

| Commodity | Number of firms | Stocks, Sold and Unsold July 1, 1932 | Stocks, Sold and Unsold April 1, 1932 | Stocks, Sold and Unsold July 1, 1931 | Decrease April 1 to July 1 | Decrease July 1, 1932 compared with July 1, 1931 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Cases* | *Cases* | *Cases* | *Pct.* | *Pct.* |
| Peas | 117 | a1,642,602 | 3,063,226 | a2,329,272 | 46.4 | 29.5 |
| Corn | 166 | 5,132,725 | 7,100,046 | 1,678,448 | 27.7 | b205.0 |
| Tomatoes | 291 | 1,352,177 | 2,722,580 | 2,001,566 | 50.3 | 35.4 |
| Green and wax beans | 197 | 1,192,116 | 2,049,632 | 1,279,033 | 41.8 | 8.1 |
| Peaches | 47 | 2,979,933 | 3,790,053 | 2,606,087 | 21.4 | b14.5 |
| Pears | 58 | 663,383 | 1,135,387 | 664,610 | 41.6 | 0.3 |
| Pineapple | 10 | 4,366,489 | 5,311,364 | c | 17.8 | .... |

a Old pack stocks only. b Increase. c No comparable figure.

The figures are *not* total stocks for *any* item, but represent the change in holdings based upon a cross section of the canners and distributors, and are therefore representative of conditions in the industry.

Stocks of peas and tomatoes in canners' hands as of July 1, 1932, decreased as compared with those held on the same date last year. Stocks of corn are substantially larger, peaches somewhat larger, while pears showed practically no change.

In general, the reduction of stocks in distributors' hands continued through the period of this report, and stocks of the seven items covered are now 16 per cent below the holdings last year. However, stocks of corn and pineapple in distributors' warehouses are larger than at the same date a year ago.

## REGISTRATION OF TOMATO JUICE NOT REQUIRED IN NORTH DAKOTA

Attention has been called to the fact that registration of tomato juice is not required in the state of North Dakota, according to an opinion of the Attorney General of that state, which states that tomato juice does not come within the meaning of the Beverage Inspection Act.

## COLLECTION OF TOMATO JUICE AND TOMATO COCKTAIL STATISTICS

The Department of Commerce, through the Foodstuffs Division, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, is prepared to compile and publish statistics on tomato juice and tomato cocktail production for 1932, provided assurance is received that this service is desired by the industry.

Statistics were published on the 1930 production, but were not compiled in 1931.

Many requests for information on the volume of tomato juice production have been received. Figures can be collected with very little additional trouble in connection with the statistics on the canned tomato pack and if the Association can assure the Foodstuffs Division of the cooperation of canners of tomato juice and tomato juice cocktail, the Department of Commerce will be glad to compile the statistics. Canners who desire that these figures be compiled are requested to communicate with the Association at once.

## NEW HEARING ON FOODSTUFFS RATES SOUGHT

In a petition filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission by all the carriers in Official Classification Territory, seeking further hearing and argument upon the roads' plan to cut the freight rates on foodstuffs in glass containers to the same level as that applicable on canned goods, reconsideration is sought by the railroads on the ground that articles which moved predominantly in glass at the time of the hearings in the case are now moving in metal. (I. & S. Docket No. 3569.)

Schedules proposing to put glass-contained foodstuffs upon the same level as metal-packed goods were first suspended by the Commission, and later dismissed.

The railroads base their petition on the ground that articles which moved predominantly in glass at the time of the hearings in the case are now moving in metal in ever-increasing volume,

and that a substantial volume of the canned goods traffic is going to motor trucks competing with the carriers.

### FORECAST OF PEAS AND SNAP BEANS FOR CANNING

The following tables taken from a report issued by the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics on July 26 show the forecast of production of peas and snap beans for canning:

**Peas.**—The 1932 forecast of production of green peas for canning or manufacture, based upon reported condition and yields per acre on July 15, differs very little from the total forecast of production of July 1. The indicated production is 25.3 per cent below the estimated production in 1931 and is 46 per cent less than the five-year average production for the period, 1926-1930.

Reports from canners indicate that the late crop in Wisconsin has shown no improvement since July 1 and that the probable average yield per acre will likely be slightly less than reported on that date. A similar situation is indicated for the New York crop, where a slightly lower yield per acre is also indicated. In Illinois and Minnesota, however, it now appears that the yield per acre was underestimated on July 1. In the Far Western area, very good yields are indicated in all states except in Colorado, where the indicated yield per acre is the lowest on record during the past 14 years.

| State | Acreage | | Yield Per Acre | | Production | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1931 | 1932 | 1931 | 1932 | 1931 | 1932 |
| | *Acres* | *Acres* | *Pounds* | *Pounds* | 1,000 *lbs.* | 1,000 *lbs.* |
| Maine | 1,470 | 1,400 | 1,430 | 1,500 | 2,102 | 2,100 |
| New York | 31,900 | 27,400 | 1,290 | 840 | 41,151 | 23,016 |
| New Jersey | 500 | 500 | 1,430 | 300 | 715 | 150 |
| Pennsylvania | 1,920 | 1,560 | 1,520 | 1,550 | 2,918 | 2,418 |
| Ohio | 5,800 | 3,600 | 1,540 | 800 | 8,932 | 2,880 |
| Indiana | 5,950 | 5,400 | 2,660 | 1,450 | 15,827 | 7,830 |
| Illinois | 13,100 | 15,200 | 1,670 | 1,500 | 21,877 | 22,800 |
| Michigan | 10,200 | 12,560 | 1,060 | 650 | 10,812 | 8,164 |
| Wisconsin | 98,000 | 88,000 | 1,100 | 790 | 107,800 | 69,520 |
| Minnesota | 16,500 | 14,800 | 880 | 1,400 | 14,520 | 20,720 |
| Delaware | 2,620 | 1,750 | 1,830 | 500 | 4,795 | 875 |
| Maryland | 13,860 | 11,500 | 1,640 | 940 | 22,730 | 10,810 |
| Montana | 2,400 | 2,900 | 2,500 | 3,000 | 6,000 | 8,700 |
| Colorado | 3,500 | 3,220 | 1,480 | 1,050 | 5,180 | 3,381 |
| Utah | 7,200 | 7,400 | 2,040 | 2,400 | 14,688 | 17,760 |
| Washington | 2,300 | 2,350 | 1,200 | 2,500 | 2,760 | 5,875 |
| California | 1,000 | 850 | 2,200 | 2,240 | 2,200 | 1,904 |
| Other states * | 4,590 | 5,770 | 1,932 | 1,830 | 8,870 | 10,559 |
| U. S. total | 222,810 | 206,160 | 1,319 | 1,065 | 293,877 | 219,462 |

* "Other states" include: Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Tennessee, Virginia and Wyoming.

**Snap beans.**—Based upon the condition on July 15, the 1932 forecast of production of snap beans for canning or manufacture is about 37 per cent below the estimated production in 1931 and is 35 per cent less than the average production during the period, 1926-1930. The total indicated production is 44,170 tons compared with a production of 69,728 tons in 1931 and with an average of 68,100 tons for the five-year period, 1926-1930. The indicated average yield per acre is 1.38 tons compared with 1.28 tons in 1931 and with an average of 1.47 tons for the five years previous to 1931.

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| State | Acreage 1931 | Acreage 1932 | Yield Per Acre 1931 | Yield Per Acre 1932 | Production 1931 | Production 1932 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Acres* | *Acres* | *Tons* | *Tons* | *Tons* | *Tons* |
| Maine | 950 | 520 | 2.8 | 2.1 | 2,700 | 1,092 |
| New York | 7,300 | 5,330 | 1.8 | 1.3 | 13,100 | 6,929 |
| Pennsylvania | 3,200 | 1,630 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 4,500 | 1,956 |
| Indiana | 3,600 | 1,900 | .4 | 1.2 | 1,400 | 2,280 |
| Michigan | 5,500 | 3,280 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 5,500 | 3,936 |
| Wisconsin | 7,200 | 3,880 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 8,600 | 4,656 |
| Delaware | 1,550 | 380 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1,600 | 380 |
| Maryland | 7,300 | 4,200 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 10,200 | 5,460 |
| South Carolina | 1,000 | 700 | .6 | 1.0 | 600 | 700 |
| Tennessee | 2,100 | 1,500 | .8 | 1.8 | 1,700 | 2,700 |
| Mississippi | 2,000 | 1,320 | .7 | .9 | 1,400 | 1,188 |
| Arkansas | 2,040 | 1,400 | .7 | 1.0 | 1,400 | 1,400 |
| Louisiana | 1,400 | 800 | .9 | 1.2 | 1,300 | 960 |
| Colorado | 1,050 | 850 | 1.9 | 2.8 | 2,000 | 2,380 |
| Utah | 180 | 300 | 3.3 | 3.1 | 600 | 930 |
| Washington | 550 | 160 | 3.3 | 3.5 | 1,800 | 560 |
| Oregon | 400 | 400 | 4.0 | 3.2 | 1,600 | 1,280 |
| California | 650 | 250 | 2.6 | 3.5 | 1,700 | 875 |
| Other states * | 6,690 | 3,220 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 8,028 | 4,508 |
| U. S. total | 54,660 | 32,020 | 1.28 | 1.38 | 69,728 | 44,170 |

* "Other states" include: Alabama, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia.

## CANNING PIMIENTO ACREAGE

According to a report compiled by the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates of the U. S. Department of Agriculture the 1932 preliminary estimate of planted acreage of pimientos for canning or manufacture is 8,040 acres compared with a total of 7,900 acres planted and 6,640 acres harvested in 1931. The planted acreage in Georgia is estimated at 5,870 acres compared with 6,000 acres planted and 5,600 acres harvested in 1931. California has a material increase over both the planted and harvested acreages of last year.

The following table gives the estimates of planted acreage in 1932 compared with harvested acreages from 1927 to 1931, inclusive:

| State | Harvested Acreage 1927 | Harvested Acreage 1928 | Harvested Acreage 1929 | Harvested Acreage 1930 | Harvested Acreage 1931 | Planted acreage 1932 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Acres* | *Acres* | *Acres* | *Acres* | *Acres* | *Acres* |
| California | 3,340 | 3,250 | 2,120 | 2,140 | 1,040 | 2,170 |
| Georgia | 3,700 | 5,600 | 6,900 | 6,800 | 5,600 | 5,870 |
| Total | 7,040 | 8,850 | 9,020 | 8,940 | 6,640 | 8,040 |

## CONDITION OF CANNING CROPS

The Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates on July 26 issued the following report on the condition of sweet corn, tomatoes, snap beans, cabbage for kraut, green lima beans and beets as of July 15, with comparisons:

| State | Sweet Corn July 15 1932 | Sweet Corn July 15 1931 | Sweet Corn 5-yr.-ave. July 15 | Tomatoes July 15 1932 | Tomatoes July 15 1931 | Tomatoes 5-yr.-ave. July 15 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Pct.* | *Pct.* | *Pct.* | *Pct.* | *Pct.* | *Pct.* |
| Maine | 88 | 83 | 81 | .. | .. | .. |
| New Hampshire | 90 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Vermont | 88 | 85 | 79 | .. | .. | .. |
| New York | 80 | 92 | 77 | 90 | 92 | 83 |
| New Jersey | .. | .. | .. | 88 | 90 | 86 |
| Pennsylvania | 75 | 86 | 75 | 84 | 90 | 82 |
| Ohio | 83 | 86 | 65 | 91 | 92 | 85 |
| Indiana | 89 | 88 | 78 | 90 | 84 | 81 |
| Illinois | 94 | 93 | 83 | 94 | 83 | 80 |
| Michigan | 82 | 85 | 79 | 79 | 90 | 83 |
| Wisconsin | 88 | 81 | 74 | .. | .. | .. |
| Minnesota | 91 | 90 | 85 | .. | .. | .. |
| Iowa | 92 | 93 | 84 | 94 | 86 | 83 |
| Nebraska | 89 | 94 | 88 | .. | .. | .. |
| Missouri | .. | .. | .. | 88 | 51 | 77 |
| Delaware | 75 | 90 | 78 | 79 | 83 | 80 |
| Maryland | 75 | 91 | 78 | 80 | 80 | 80 |
| Virginia | .. | .. | .. | 79 | 81 | 73 |
| Kentucky | .. | .. | .. | 88 | 85 | 73 |
| Tennessee | 90 | 97 | .. | 85 | 60 | 75 |
| Arkansas | .. | .. | .. | 84 | 50 | 78 |
| Colorado | .. | .. | .. | 93 | 90 | 85 |
| Utah | .. | .. | .. | 97 | 85 | 77 |
| California | .. | .. | .. | 88 | 86 | 86 |
| Other states * | 78 | 87 | 82 | 78 | 75 | 75 |
| U. S. average | 87.2 | 90.1 | 79.6 | 86.6 | 79.6 | 81.0 |

* For sweet corn "Other states" include: Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, Oregon, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming. For tomatoes "Other states" include: Connecticut, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

| State | Snap Beans July 15 1932 | Snap Beans July 15 1931 | Snap Beans 5-yr.-ave. July 15 | Cabbage for Kraut July 15 1932 | Cabbage for Kraut July 15 1931 | Cabbage for Kraut 10-yr.-ave. July 15 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Pct.* | *Pct.* | *Pct.* | *Pct.* | *Pct.* | *Pct.* |
| Maine | 73 | 86 | 83 | .. | .. | .. |
| New York | 73 | 91 | 85 | 90 | 83 | 85 |
| Pennsylvania | 61 | 77 | 72 | .. | .. | .. |
| Ohio | .. | .. | .. | 87 | 83 | 85 |
| Indiana | 73 | 52 | 65 | 92 | 90 | 89 |
| Illinois | .. | .. | .. | 92 | 80 | 92 |
| Michigan | 90 | 81 | 80 | 92 | 93 | 92 |
| Wisconsin | 76 | 71 | 84 | 91 | 75 | 87 |
| Minnesota | .. | .. | .. | 85 | 78 | 83 |
| Delaware | 63 | 75 | 77 | .. | .. | .. |
| Maryland | 69 | 72 | 71 | .. | .. | .. |
| South Carolina | 48 | 40 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Tennessee | 93 | 35 | 73 | .. | .. | .. |
| Mississippi | 60 | 55 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Arkansas | 62 | 12 | 73 | .. | .. | .. |
| Louisiana | 74 | 58 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Colorado | 87 | 89 | 85 | 90 | 85 | 78 |
| Utah | 100 | 90 | 86 | .. | .. | .. |
| Washington | 100 | 82 | 76 | 84 | 78 | 90 |
| Oregon | 85 | 90 | 84 | .. | .. | .. |
| California | 75 | 92 | 86 | .. | .. | .. |
| Other states * | 80 | 50 | 71 | 86 | 72 | 81 |
| U. S. average | 74.9 | 67.7 | 76.6 | 89.6 | 80.9 | 86.0 |

* For snap beans "Other states" include: Alabama, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois,

Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming. For cabbage for kraut "Other States" include: Arkansas, California, Iowa, Maryland, Montana, Missouri, Nebraska, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, and Virginia.

| State | Green Lima Beans | | | Beets | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | July 15, 1932 | July 15, 1931 | July 15, 1930 | July 15, 1932 | July 15, 1931 | July 15, 1930 |
| | *Pct.* | *Pct.* | *Pct.* | *Pct.* | *Pct.* | *Pct.* |
| New York | .. | .. | .. | 88 | 87 | 90 |
| New Jersey | 83 | 95 | 85 | 85 | 90 | 78 |
| Ohio | 80 | 80 | 71 | .. | .. | .. |
| Indiana | .. | .. | .. | 90 | 95 | 80 |
| Michigan | 80 | 60 | .. | 90 | 81 | 87 |
| Minnesota | 80 | 90 | 96 | .. | .. | .. |
| Wisconsin | .. | .. | .. | 72 | 78 | 79 |
| Delaware | 87 | 84 | 78 | .. | .. | .. |
| Maryland | 82 | 83 | 75 | .. | .. | .. |
| Virginia | 80 | 82 | 85 | .. | .. | .. |
| Oregon | .. | .. | .. | 80 | 70 | 85 |
| Other states * | 78 | 78 | 75 | 92 | 77 | 87 |
| U. S. average | 81.5 | 79.8 | 79.3 | 84.2 | 80.7 | 83.9 |

* For green lima beans "Other states" include: Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin. For beets "Other states" include: Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Washington.

## CALIFORNIA ASPARAGUS PACK FOR 1932

The following table is taken from a bulletin issued by the Canners League of California on July 22, and shows the final asparagus pack figures for California for 1932, together with figures for 1930 and 1931:

| Year | Regular | All Green | Total Pack |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Cases* | *Cases* | *Cases* |
| 1930 | 2,410,929 | 252,262 | 2,663,191 |
| 1931 | 1,538,092 | 209,407 | 1,747,499 |
| 1932 | 1,061,697 | 251,534 | 1,313,231 |

## SHRIMP SECTION ORGANIZED

At a well attended meeting of the shrimp canners held at New Orleans on July 18 and 19 it was unanimously decided to form a Shrimp Section of the National Canners Association. A request for the information of this section will be presented at the next meeting of the Board of Directors. Meanwhile, with President Hutchinson's approval, the Shrimp Section has organized and elected Mr. Charles F. Greiner, Southern Shell Fish Co., Harvey, La., chairman and Mr. S. D. Jastremski, Pelican Lake Fish & Oyster Co., Houma, La., secretary.

Arrangements have been made to employ a technical man to direct the activities of this section. The Advisory Board of the section has adopted tentative sanitary regulations and copies of these regulations have been mailed to all shrimp canners. It

is proposed to standardize the technique of shrimp packing. Research work will be conducted on icing of the raw product and other preliminaries for canning same.

Membership of the Shrimp Section includes practically every shrimp canner.

### INDEX OF INFORMATION LETTER

This week's issue contains the index of articles appearing in the Information Letter during the first half of 1932. The index is so printed that it can be removed by those who maintain a file of the Letter or have them bound, and placed immediately after the last number issued in June.

### INVESTIGATION OF FRESH TOMATO TARIFF REQUESTED

An application has been filed with the U. S. Tariff Commission by the Southern California Restaurant Association for an investigation of the tariff on fresh tomatoes, the purpose of the request being to secure a decrease in the rate of duty.

### HOME CANNING IN TEXAS

The Texas State Agricultural Extension Service, reporting on activities for 1931, shows that in the 122 counties of the state having home demonstration agents, 17 million cans of food were put up in connection with home canning project work. Reports collected by home demonstration agents from merchants show that the number of tin cans sold amounted to 24,267,602. Glass jars purchased in these counties totalled 8,293,251. The number of steam pressure cookers purchased in these counties is reported at 10,280 and the number of sealers 6,474.

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